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SERVICE

USDA'S REPORT TO CONSUMERS

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THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

New Visual Available. A new USDA slide set about food stamps is designed to be either a one- or a two-part presentation. The 61-frame color slide set, "The Food Stamp Program and You," has been prepared so slides No. 1 through No. 31 and slides No. 32 through No. 61 can be shown independently or as a complete set. The first part, which gives a general introduction to the Food Stamp Program, is directed to potential food stamp users. The second part is directed to persons already participating in the program, telling them how to use their food coupons and giving some tips on shopping and nutrition. Copies of the slide set can be purchased for \$18.50 from the Photography Division, Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. A filmstrip is also available and can be purchased for \$10.50 from the Photo Lab, 3825 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. Prices include copies of an illustrated narrative guide and a soundtrack on cassette with 1,000 Hz tone to change frames automatically.

DANDY CANDY

Full Of Nutrition. USDA scientists have made a dream come true: Candy that is good for you. The new candy, still as delicious and full of quick energy as the common variety, has the added features of being nutritionally balanced and protein-rich. Scientists developed the candy by adding nutrient fortification mixtures and dry protein to recipes of sugar sirup, fat, and flavorings. Nonfat dry milk was the usual protein source, but soy protein isolates and casein mixtures were also used. They report that cottonseed, peanut, and fish protein concentrates also offer possibilities. Synthetic vitamin and mineral supplements can be added although the researchers selected yeast, believing a natural source would be more appealing. Some vitamins, notably A and C, have to be added directly. Taste-tested at a school carnival, the new candy passed with flying colors.



"USED" CAN BE A GOOD BUY

When The Budget Is Limited. If you are buying furniture for your first apartment; if you need a piece of furniture for that empty corner in the living room; if your daughter is beginning to sew in school -- and if your budget is limited -- think "used". Two publications recently issued by USDA's Extension Service point out that used items for the home -- specifically used furniture and used sewing machines -- can be bargains if you choose carefully. "Used Sewing Machines - A Good Buy" (PA-1045) provides checklists on where to buy and what to look for in a used sewing machine. It discusses briefly the various types of machines -- including a treadle machine which might be an idea during an energy crisis. The second booklet, "Used Furniture Can Be A Good Buy" (PA-1061) gives some basic tips on choosing used tables, chairs, sofas, beds, and other furniture; what to look for in construction; some suggestions on where to buy used furniture; and a few ideas on restyling and repairs. Copies of either booklet may be purchased for 25 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

THE INS AND OUTS OF FOREIGN TRADE

Agricultural Products Come And Go. Foreign agricultural trade has come a ways from spice-laden camel caravans or tramp steamers hauling copra from tropical islands. But while the transport methods may have changed, agricultural products in international trade still include some pretty exotic goods. Take ginseng. According to a statistical report from USDA's Economic Research Service, this medicinal plant is a big item in Hong Kong which bought almost \$9 million worth from us last year. Then there are pickled pimientos. We bought \$13 million worth last year from Denmark alone. Also on our shopping list were \$15 million worth of canned Mandarin oranges from Japan; 9 million pounds of fresh garlic from Mexico; and nearly 1 million gallons of sparkling champagne from France. We bought cinnamon from the Seychelles, cashews from Mozambique, and more than \$1 million worth of fine animal hair -- mostly cashmere and camel hair -- from Outer Mongolia. Besides ginseng to Hong Kong, we sold licorice to Denmark and West Germany, which is also one of our prime buyers of muskrat, and nearly \$30 million worth of beef liver and tongue to France. Japan, by far our biggest customer, bought everything from fresh lemons to feather meal. The ERS report on foreign agricultural trade does include some of the better known products -- such as the wheat flour, fresh apples, and dried raisins we sold to Iceland. But right along side you can trace the origins of spices, soy sauce, sable, sisal, and sausage casings. Somebody, somewhere uses them all.

SERVICE is a monthly newsletter of consumer interest. It is designed for those who report to the individual consumer rather than for mass distribution. For information about items in this issue, write: Lillie Vincent, Editor of SERVICE, Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 447-5437.